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**The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

# United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy

## Report of the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

## Annex II

## Inputs from Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant organizations on implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

## Regional and subregional organizations and other relevant organizations

### Council of Europe

1. As a regional organization, the Council of Europe is committed to facilitating the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and, above all, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It does this by providing a forum for discussing and adopting regional standards and best practices and by providing assistance to its member States in improving their counter-terrorism capabilities.

2. The Council of Europe takes a three-pronged approach to the fight against terrorism: strengthening legal action; safeguarding fundamental values and addressing the causes of terrorism. Against this background, the organization has developed a number of specific activities related to the implementation of the Strategy.

3. In 2007 the Council of Europe adopted a "road map" on the contribution of the Council, as a regional organization, to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. That document identified the organization's capabilities in the light of the Strategy. With a view to streamlining and coordinating

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the efforts of the Council of Europe, the road map assigned a series of initiatives to various bodies within the organization, thereby relying on the four chapters of the Strategy. The Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Terrorism has been given the task of monitoring the implementation of the road map by the relevant entities of the organization.

4. The measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism are the most vital ones, from the Council of Europe's point of view, as they touch upon the reason for the existence of the organization.

5. The Council of Europe has been dedicated since 1949 to upholding human rights, the rule of law and pluralist democracy and is therefore determined to combat terrorism, which repudiates these three fundamental values. Virtually all Council of Europe activities are inspired by an uncompromising approach towards due protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and other instruments elaborated by the organization.

6. Regarding the measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, the Council of Europe, through its standard-setting and technical cooperation activities, is actively involved in education, youth and the media; it contributes to ensuring the protection of minorities and to fighting intolerance, racism and social exclusion, in an attempt to weaken the sources of discontent that may fuel terrorism. These initiatives reflect the Council of Europe's conviction that dialogue among individuals of different religions, cultures and heritage based on mutual understanding, respect for human rights and tolerance is key to enhancing social cohesion and, as a result, tackling terrorism.

7. As for the measures to prevent and combat terrorism and to build the capacities of States to prevent and combat terrorism, one of the priorities of the Council of Europe is to strengthen legal action against terrorism. To this end, the Council of Europe works towards the following:

(a) Creating a judicial framework that allows substantial international cooperation among judicial authorities;

(b) Monitoring signatures and ratifications of relevant instruments and encouraging member States to reconsider existing reservations;

(c) Increasing the efficiency of the relevant international and European instruments;

(d) Reinforcing the various forms of mutual cooperation in the criminal field;

(e) Stepping up the fight against money-laundering and cybercrime;

(f) Securing just compensation for victims of terrorism.

8. In line with the international trend following the atrocious terrorist attacks of 2001, the Council of Europe started to look at how States could take a proactive approach to the fight against terrorism with a view to the prevention of terrorist acts. One of the most prominent steps in this direction is the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, adopted in 2005, which constitutes the first international legally binding instrument on this subject.

9. The period since the first review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held in New York from 4 to 5 September 2008, has been a particularly significant period for Council of Europe action against terrorism initiated in recent years.

10. Counter-terrorism action was particularly fostered during the period in which Spain chaired the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (27 November 2008-12 May 2009). During that period, Spain hosted the first consultation of the parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, which was held in Madrid on 12 May 2009, on the margins of the 119th session of the Committee of Ministers. During this meeting, the parties to the Convention discussed the first results of the instrument's implementation in the respective States parties. This event could be considered as a significant achievement for such a recent counter-terrorism instrument, which was adopted in 2005 and entered into force only in 2007. Currently, the Convention has been ratified by 25 Council of Europe member States and further signed by 18 member States.

11. A similar observation could be made for the first and second consultations of the parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, which took place on 22 and 23 April 2009 and 15 and 16 April 2010, respectively. Currently, the Convention has been ratified by 21 Council of Europe member States and further signed by 12 member States.

12. Both aforementioned Conventions are open to the accession of non-member States of the Council of Europe, and the organization is actively promoting these important tools for the fight against terrorism.

13. Spain also hosted on 16 and 17 April 2009, at San Lorenzo de El Escorial, an international conference on terrorism and cybersecurity, coorganized by the Organization of American States Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and the Council of Europe. For the first time, States, members of the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States, and international experts came together to share their experiences in combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and ensuring the protection of the Internet and critical infrastructure from cyberattacks by terrorists. This event was highly praised by the participants and considered successful by the coorganizers. The Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee also noted it as a successful example of regional cooperation, which also contributes to the development of United Nations action against terrorism.

14. Moreover, Spain hosted on 8 and 9 October 2009 a high-level seminar on the protection of human rights within the framework of the fight against terrorism, which was coorganized by the Counter-Terrorism Task Force of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, with the support of the University of Málaga and of the Fundación Valsaín. The participants discussed the integration of human rights in national counter-terrorism policies, the tools available for that purpose at the national and international levels and the legal challenges faced by States in that field.

15. The period of 2009 and the first half of 2010 was also marked by a new dimension of the work of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism, the core body of the Council of Europe's action against terrorism.

16. The Committee of Experts on Terrorism held its 16th and 17th meetings in 2009, on 15 and 16 April 2009 and 17 and 18 November 2009, respectively, and its 18th meeting on 7 and 8 April 2010. The Committee continued its regular work: identification of lacunas in international law and action against terrorism; development of a database of country profiles on national legal and institutional capacity to fight against terrorism; and exchange of best practices, in particular on the support and protection of victims of terrorism. At its 18th meeting, the Committee adopted the update of its progress report on future priority areas for the work of the Council of Europe against terrorism.

17. The Committee of Experts on Terrorism also paid particular attention to the implementation of the Council of Europe conventions against terrorism. During this period in particular, however, the Committee concentrated its work on the possible ways and means to follow up on the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, following the recommendation of the first consultation of parties to that Convention and a decision instructing the Committee of Experts to regularly monitor the effective use and implementation of the Convention. This work would be a cornerstone for the future work of the Committee of Experts.

18. As for technical cooperation activities, two important observations could be made. Firstly, further synergies were developed with the United Nations, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and regional organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The period of 2009-2010 was marked by active participation in each other's activities, e.g., all Counter-Terrorism Committee country visits in Europe. Moreover, several joint events have been organized, namely:

(a) A joint Council of Europe, OSCE and UNODC workshop on enhancing international legal cooperation related to terrorism, including the drafting of requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance (28 and 29 January 2009, Bosnia and Herzegovina);

(b) A joint Council of Europe-UNODC workshop on enhancing international legal cooperation related to terrorism, including the drafting of requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance (16 and 17 December 2009, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

19. Secondly, the Council of Europe developed its own technical cooperation project entitled "Bringing terrorists to justice: promoting the implementation of European standards and documenting good practices", which deals with both relevant counter-terrorism issues and extensive case law developed by the European Court of Human Rights. This training, for the benefit of judges and prosecutors dealing with the investigation and prosecution of terrorist cases and related international legal cooperation in criminal matters, was highly supported by the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and will continue to be developed.